CLAIMS

1. An absorbent article comprising a liquid-permeable top layer, a liquid-impermeable back layer, and a liquid retentive absorbent member, interposed between said top layer and said back layer,

wherein said absorbent member is arranged to form (a) an opposing pair of barrier cuffs which are within longitudinal edges of said top layer and extend along the longitudinal edges, and (b) a pocket portion formed between said pair of barrier cuffs.

2. The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein said barrier cuffs are 1 mm to 10 mm in thickness.

3. The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein said barrier cuffs are arranged away from each other, and elastic members are provided inward side edges of said barrier cuffs located along the longitudinal direction of said barrier cuffs such that said barrier cuffs are shrunk along the longitudinal direction of said barrier cuffs over a prescribed length.

4. The absorbent article according to claim 1 which has a projecting portion located between said barrier cuffs and on the skin contacting surface side of said pocket portion along the longitudinal direction of said barrier cuffs.

5. The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein said absorbent member includes an absorbent sheet having a thickness of 0.3 mm to 5 mm, and an almost entire surface of said absorbent sheet is overlaid with said top layer, and said absorbent sheet

and said top layer are folded integrally.

6. The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein said absorbent member includes an absorbent sheet having a thickness of 0.3 mm to 5 mm; and

said absorbent sheet of said barrier cuffs is folded in an overlapping, serpentine configuration.

7. The absorbent article according to claim 5 ~~or 6~~, wherein said absorbent sheet is obtainable by interposing a superabsorbent polymer between a pair of paper, nonwoven fabric or a combination thereof, or by admixing a hydrophilic fiber, a superabsorbent polymer and a binder, and forming the admixture into a sheet-like shape.

8. The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein said absorbent member includes means for bonding portions adjacent to said barrier cuffs to said back layer, and said barrier cuffs are spaced apart from said back layer.

9. The absorbent article of claim 8, wherein said means for bonding portions adjacent said barrier cuffs to said back layer includes at least one of an adhesive agent and heat sealing.

10. The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein said absorbent article includes means for bonding said top layer to said liquid retentive absorbent member.

11. The absorbent article of claim 10, wherein said means for bonding said top

layer to said liquid retentive member includes at least one of an adhesive agent and heat sealing.

12. The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein said pocket portion has a cross section which is substantially V-shaped.

13. The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein said absorbent member includes two pads supported by a planar pad, each of said two pads supports said top layer so that said two pads form said barrier cuffs.

14. The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein said absorbent member includes an absorbent sheet, said absorbent sheet is folded in an overlapping serpentine configuration, said serpentine configuration includes curved portions spaced apart from planar portions of said sheet, said top layer covers said serpentine configuration so that said curved portions and planar portions of said absorbent sheet and portions of said top layer form enclosed volumes of empty space.

15. The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein said absorbent member includes an absorbent sheet supporting an absorbent pad, said absorbent pad is disposed between said barrier cuffs, said absorbent sheet is disposed between said absorbent pad and said back layer.

16. The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein said absorbent member includes an absorbent sheet, said absorbent sheet is folded in an overlapping serpentine configuration, each barrier cuff includes portions of the serpentine configuration that

are disposed within said pocket portion and curved non-overlapping portions which are disposed outside said pocket portion.

17. The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein said absorbent member includes a planar pad with integrally formed pad projections extending from said planar pad, said pad projections form said barrier cuffs.

18. The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein said absorbent member includes two pads and a planar pad, each pad is substantially enclosed by said top layer so that said two pads form said barrier cuffs, said top layer substantially spaces said two pads from said planar pad.

19. An absorbent article comprising:

a first liquid-permeable top layer;

a liquid impermeable back layer;

a first liquid retentive absorbent member interposed between said first liquid-permeable top layer and said liquid impermeable back layer;

a second liquid-permeable top layer; and

a second liquid retentive absorbent member interposed between said second liquid-permeable top layer and said first liquid-permeable top layer;

said second liquid retentive absorbent member including an opposing pair of barrier cuffs which are within longitudinal edges of said first liquid-retentive top layer and extend along longitudinal edges of said first liquid-permeable top layer, and a pocket portion formed between said pair of barrier cuffs.

20. An absorbent article comprising,

a first liquid-permeable top layer;

a liquid impermeable back layer;

a first liquid retentive absorbent member interposed between said first liquid-permeable top layer and said liquid impermeable back layer;

a second liquid-permeable top layer;

a second liquid retentive absorbent member enclosed by said second liquid-permeable top layer, said second liquid retentive absorbent member includes a planar pad and an auxiliary pad, said second liquid retentive absorbent member including an opposing pair of barrier cuffs which are within longitudinal edges of said first liquid retentive top layer and extend along longitudinal edges of said first liquid-permeable top layer, and a pocket portion formed between said pair of barrier cuffs; and

means for securing said second top liquid-permeable layer to said first liquid-permeable top layer.